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in his 1970 LP performance with Karajan and his Salzburg Festival forces. This much more recent rendering, crudely transferred from a Bulgarian original, shows audible wear in the basso's plush instrument. While the supporting artists might pass muster on an off-Tuesday evening in Sofia, they scarcely merit commemoration in microgroove. —A.U.

□

SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY NO. 2. Toronto Symphony conducted by Andrew Davis. CBS Masterworks IM-37801 (digital). Davis generates a strong, assertive reading, with a few rough, unconsidered edges. Happily, he never descends to the pretty, Tchaikovskian sentimental excess that often accrues to the 1902 symphony. The CBS engineering occasionally muddies detail (especially in the violin-oboe exchanges of the first movement). Yet in the places where it counts most—in the inexorable drive toward the fourth movement finale—Davis proves himself a Sibelian of rare integrity. The disc surfaces are substandard. —A.U.

□

HANDEL: CORONATION ANTHEMS ("Zadok the Priest," "The King Shall Rejoice," "My Heart Is Inditing," "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened"). Choir of Westminster Abbey; the English Consort conducted by Simon Preston, DG Archiv 2534 005 (digital). A royal treat. The modest performing forces and the period instruments scrub these four numbers of a century of Victorian gingerbread, and they shimmer with that mixture of devoutness, patriotism and sheer splendor that George II might have heard at his coronation in 1727. Preston inclines to speedy tempos and extreme contrapuntal clarity; his forces throughout display an effortless sense of style. DG's sound is a mite dry and just about ideal. —A.U.

□

VIVALDI: IL CIMENTO DELL'ARMONIA E DELL'INVENTIONE (12 CONCERTOS, OPUS 8). Academy of Ancient Music, Christopher Hogwood, conductor. L'Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium D279D2 (2 records—digital). Because "The Four Seasons" begins the opus, "The trial between harmony and invention" is understandably Vivaldi's most popular set of concertos. These performances by Hogwood & Co. do not dazzle or electrify, rather they delight and elucidate—with style, intelligence and refinement. No big-name star here: The 12 concertos are divided among six soloists. Hogwood takes refreshing tacks regarding authentic instrumentation, of course: He employs oboist Michel Piguet as soloist for Nos. 9 and 12; continuo duties are split not only between chamber organ and harpsichord, but among the orbo, baroque guitar and archlute, each adding its own distinctive flavor as well. —B.E.

□

PROKOFIEV: "THE PRODIGAL SON"; OVERTURE FOR 17 INSTRUMENTS. U.S.S.R. State Academic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gennady Rozhdestvensky. Cum Laude VCL 9036. This long overdue modern recording of the 1929 ballet score, Sergei Diaghilev's last commission, trades on the simple harmonies and coloristic devices so favored by voguish French composers of the period. The economy, motor rhythms and restrained romanticism of the 35-minute score form an apt complement to George Balanchine's durable choreography. While the Soviet orchestra's purity of registration can't compare with that of a superior Western pit band, Rozhdestvensky dispatches the piece with idiomatic fervor. The so-called "American" Overture (1926) is trivial stuff, strongly performed. —A.U.

□

RESPIGHI: "IL TRAMONTO"; TEN SONGS. Renata Scotto, soprano; Tokyo String Quartet; Thomas Fulton, piano. Vox Cum Laude D-VCL 9039 (digital). In matters of lushness, color and vocal stability, Scotto's is hardly the ideal vehicle for transmitting the faded but still tangible pleasures of Respighi's Shelley-inspired *scena*, scored originally for mezzo-soprano. Yet the diva delivers a commanding reading, attentive to dramatic possibilities, scrupulous in dynamic shading, alert to word values. The Tokyoites prove sympathetic collaborators, pointed, if a bit clinical overall. Scotto scores, too, in the Puccinesque ditties on the reverse, which include a rare recording of the minicycle, "Deita Silvane." Texts, translations and flattering sonics. —A.U.

# CALENDAR

## LECTURES

**TODAY**

**THE PLIGHT OF HOMELESS PEOPLE** (First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, 2936 West 8th St., 11 a.m., 389-1356) Suzanne Spencer

**THE CHALLENGE OF THE VISUAL ARTS IN JUDAISM** (Temple Isaiah, 10345 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles, 9:30 a.m., 277-2772) Dr. Stephen Kayser will present this breakfast/lecture. $7.50.

**END HEARTACHE FOREVER** (New Life Foundation, Boyd Center, Sarzotti Park, Oja., 9:30 a.m., 905-646-9756) Murray Oxman. $3

**MONDAY**

**NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE TODDLER AND PRESCHOOLER** (National Pediatric Support Services, Medical Center of Tarzana, 7 p.m., 708-5192) Phone for reservations and location. $2.

**NEW BREAKTHROUGHS IN HEALTH, HARMONY AND MATERIAL PROSPERITY** (Mahikari of America, Century Plaza Hotel, 7 p.m., 353-0071) Dr. A. K. Tebecis. Phone for details.

**JEWISH PERSECUTION: WE SHALL NOT SURRENDER** (Jewish Federation Council, Jewish Community Bldg., 6505 Wilshire Blvd., 7 p.m., 852-1234) A historical lecture series. $3

**TUESDAY**

**TAX-PLANNING STRATEGIES** (Dean Witter Reynolds, Arbor Restaurant, Upland, 7 p.m., 714-981-4875) Nancy Terry. Phone for reservations and details.

**ATTAIN SELF-AUTHORITY** (New Life Foundation, Imperial Savings, 21229 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, 8 p.m., 799-5031) Neil Prussel. $3

**DARWIN: THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES AND THE DESCENT OF MAN** (Gnostic Society, 4516 Hollywood Blvd., 8 p.m., 467-2685) Roger Weer

**FRIDAY**

**LIVING TOGETHER: A LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEW** (Sirkin Institute, 5535 Balboa Blvd., Suite 206, Encino, 7:30 p.m., 981-6990) Members $4, guests $6

**STRESS TECHNIQUES FOR CRITICAL CARE NURSES** (Friends of the Family, 9:30 a.m., 888-4430) Phone for details and location. $36

**ODYSSEUS AND THE MYTH OF THE JOURNEY** (Gnostic Society, 4516 Hollywood Blvd., 8 p.m., 467-2685) Stephan Hoeller

**SATURDAY**

**HOW TO PUBLISH WHAT YOU WRITE** (Los Angeles House, 9 a.m., 725-9415) Kenneth Atchity. Phone for reservations and location.

**CREATIVITY: LITERATURE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS** (Southern California Psychoanalytic Society, 655-1634) Phone for details.

## READINGS

**TODAY**

**OPEN READING**, poetry (Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, 8 p.m., 822-3006) Free

**TUESDAY**

**RICHARD MELTZER**, poetry, publication party for "Post-Natal Trash" (Al's Bar, 305 S. Hewitt St., downtown, 8 p.m., 687-3558 or 271-1460)

**FRIDAY**

**ROBERT PETERS, CHERI FEIN**, poetry (Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, 8 p.m., 822-3006)


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